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DRAMATICS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

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The teaching of dramatics in high schools, though past the experimental stage in of few places, has not yet been universally adopted as a part of our general school curriculum. The skeptics still raise many doubts as to the value of dramatic effort, alleging against it a lack of time or of suitable plays, doubts as to the intellectual profit obtained in proportion to the effort expended, and doubts as to the educational merit of amateur performances. Several years' experience in directing high-school plays has seemed to me to offer a good deal of evidence in favor of extending the vogue of such performances, and it is with the hope of winning over hostile critics that I here set down what seem to me the merits of the scheme, together with a list of plays suitable for high-school use.

Certainly if the interest of students is an advantage to the teacher, there is much to be said for dramatics. We have observed the dramatic instinct at work in our pupils, the clamor to take part in games, in dances, in contests of all sorts, and in plays. Growing young people are full of surplus energy; they delight in imitating the society of their elders and in feeling that their actions have a larger significance than an ordinary deed of everyday life can give them. This enthusiasm also aids the student toward self-expression and spontaneity.

Then too, if wisely superintended, acting in good plays widens the actor's sympathies, increases his power of appreciation, deepens his imagination, and drives home a lesson or an image of beauty in a way that no amount of passive desk study can do. Even in handling refractory or difficult pupils these benefits are strikingly revealed. I have observed the boy who was careless in his habits of dress, if given a part of a gentleman, improve his appearance afterward; the school rogue change his attitude toward school

and books, and cease to give trouble; the very sensitive and reserved boy indulge in activities. Dr. Curtis in *The Dramatic Instinct* corroborates my argument.

Title	Type	Author	Publisher	Setting	M.	F.
America Passes By.....	Comedy	Kenneth Andrews	Baker & Co., Boston	Interior	2	2
Blue Iris.....	Fantasy	Lois F. Seyster	May, 1920. <i>Ill. Magazine</i> . U. of Ill., Champaign, Ill.	Interior	...	4
A Christmas Tale.....	Miracle Play	Maurice Baucher	Samuel French, 28-30 W. 38 St., N.Y.	Interior	2	2
Dear Departed, The.....	Comedy	Stanley Houghton	Samuel French	Interior	3	3
Edict, The.....	Problem	Jane Kuhn	May, 1916. <i>Challenge</i> . 416 W. 122 St., N.Y.	Interior	2	4
Festival of Pomona, The	Fantasy	Constance D'Arcy Mackay	Henry Holt, N.Y.	Exterior	1	2
Florist Shop, The.....	Comedy	Winifred Hawbridge	Brentanos, N.Y.	Interior	3	2
Fourteen.....	Comedy	Alice Gerstenberg	Feb., 1920. <i>Drama</i> . 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago	Interior	1	2
Glory of the Morning, The	Romantic	W. Ellery Leonard	B. W. Huebsch, N.Y.	Interior	3	2
Golden Doom, The.....	Morality	Lord Dunsany	Little Brown & Co., Boston	Exterior	9	1
Hour Glass, The.....	Morality	W. B. Yeats	Macmillan Co., N.Y.	Interior	3	1
Ici on Parle Français.....	Farce	Thomas J. Williams	Dramatic Pub. Co.	Interior	3	4
Interior, The.....	Realism	Maurice Maeterlinck	Duckworth & Co., 3 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, London	Exterior	3	2
Joint Owners in Spain..	Comedy	Alice Brown	Walter H. Baker & Co., Boston	Interior	...	4
Little King, The.....	Historical	Witter Bynner	Mitchell Kennerly, N.Y.	Interior	5	1
Lima Beans.....	Farce	Alfred Kreymbourg	<i>One Act Plays of American Authors</i> . Little Brown & Co., Boston	Interior	2	1
Lost Silk Hat, The.....	Comedy	Lord Dunsany	Little Brown & Co., Boston	Exterior	5	...
Maker of Dreams.....	Fantasy	Oliphant Brown	Samuel French	Interior	2	1
Medicine Show, The....	Comedy	Stewart Walker	<i>Portmanteau Plays</i> . Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Exterior	3	...
Minuet, The.....	Realism	Jan., 1916. <i>Century Magazine</i>	Interior	2	1
Nevertheless.....	Comedy	Stewart Walker	Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Interior	2	1
Oh! Pampinia.....	Comedy	Warner G. Rice	Prize Play, 1920. <i>Mask and Bauble</i> . U. of Ill., Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, N.Y.	Interior	5	3
Overtones.....	Comedy...	Alice Gerstenberg	Macmillan Co., N.Y.	Interior	...	4
Pot of Broth, The.....	Comedy	W. B. Yeats	John Luce & Co.	Interior	2	1
Rising of the Moon, The	Lady Gregory	<i>Smart Set</i> . Valcros & D. Estor. Nov., 1913	Exterior	4	...
Sabotage.....	Problem	Charles Hellem	Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Interior	3	2
Seven Gifts, The.....	Fantasy	Stewart Walker	Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Interior	7	4
Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil.....	Fantasy	Stewart Walker	Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Interior	6	2
Teeth of the Gift Horse.	Comedy	Margaret Cameron	Samuel French, N.Y.	Interior	2	4
Youth (Scene 1) from Three Kisses.....	Comedy	Margaret Scott	<i>Drama</i> , 1920	Exterior	1	2
Three Pills in a Bottle..	Fantasy	Rachell Field	<i>Plays of 47 Workshop</i> . Brentanos, N.Y.	Interior	5	3
Traveling Man, The....	Miracle Play	Lady Gregory	John W. Luce & Co., Boston	Interior	1	2
Trifles.....	Comedy	Susan Glaspel	Frank Shay, Washington Square Player, N.Y.	Interior	3	2
Trimplet, The.....	Fantastic Comedy	Stewart Walker	<i>Portmanteau Plays</i> . Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati	Exterior	3	2
Why the Chimes Rang..	Christmas Play	Elizabeth McFadden	Samuel French & Co., N.Y.	Interior	5	1

Besides the imaginative, emotional, and even moral benefits, dramatics can easily be made a vehicle for educational purposes. The significance of the great dramas is never so clearly felt as when one has an active rôle in living through a part of Hamlet's philosophical questionings, or the moral anguish of Macbeth. Then, too, better training in this field in the schools is sure to react on our theaters, demanding an improved drama and better films on the screen. Students acquainted with the humor of Falstaff, Rosalind's wit, or even with the social comedy of our own little-theater drama are likely to demand something better than cheap comedies or the slapstick cinema farce.

Perhaps the greatest difficulties in presenting plays in high schools are those of finding time and suitable plays. The problem of time can be solved by using one-act plays. The finding of good one-act plays suitable for high-school performance presents greater difficulty. In my list of about three hundred one-act plays there are, however, some thirty-six which I feel merit attention from high-school teachers. In selecting this list it has been the policy to eliminate plays dealing with social problems, immorality, bedroom comedy, gushing love scenes, etc., and to include clean, wholesome comedies, romances, and fantasies; such as seem suitable educationally and dramatically for the high-school stage and the amateur performer. The accompanying list of classified plays is perhaps sufficiently clear.

PUBLISHERS THAT WILL SUPPLY LISTS OF PLAYS AND CATALOGUES

Agency for Unpublished Plays, 41 Concord Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

American Play Company, 33 W. 42d St., New York, N.Y.

A List of Dramatic Material for Use by Y.W.C.A. Prepared by the Committee of Pageantry and the Drama War Work Council for the National Board, 600 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y.

Brentano Publishers, 727 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Dramatic Index, F. W. Faxon, Boston, Mass. \$3.50.

Dramatic League Book Shop, 300 Riggs Bldg., Washington, D.C.

Dramatic Publishing Co., Pontiac Bldg. 542 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

Edgar S. Werner, Publisher, 43 E. 19th St., New York, N.Y.

Eldridge Entertainment Co., Franklin, Ohio.

John W. Luce Co., 212 Sumner St., Boston, Mass.

Norman Lee Swartout, Summit, N.J.
 Penn Publishing Co., 923 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 Rumsey Play Co., West 46th St., New York, N.Y.
 Samuel French Publishers, 28-30 W. 38th St., New York, N.Y.
 Sanger & Jordan, Times Square, New York, N.Y.
 Scribner's Sons, 597 5th Ave., New York, N.Y.
Some of the Best Dramas, H. W. Wilson & Co., Times Square, New York, N.Y.
 Stage Guild, 1527 Railway Exchange Bldg., Chicago, Ill.
Sarah E. Simmons and Clem Orr
Dramatized Classics, Scott Foresman, 623 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Stewart Kidd & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.
Theatre Arts Magazine, 7 E. 42d St., New York, N.Y. \$2.00.
 Walter H. Baker, Publisher, 5 Hamilton Place, Boston, Mass.
 Washington Square Book Shop, 17 W. 8th St., New York, N.Y.

BOOKS OF PLAYS AND PRODUCING PLAYS

Plays for Schools, National Council of Teachers, Chicago, Ill. \$0.25.
Choosing a Play, H. W. Wilson, & Co., 958 University Ave., New York, N.Y.
 \$0.45.
How to See a Play, Richard Burton, Macmillan & Co., New York, N.Y.
Representative One Act Plays by Margaret Mayorga, of American Authors,
 Little Brown & Co., Boston, Mass.
The Art Theatre, by Sheldon Cheney. Published by Alfred Knopf.
How to Produce Amateur Plays, by Barrett H. Clark, Little Brown & Co.
 Boston, Mass.
Costumes and Scenery for Amateurs, by Constance D'Arcy Mackay, Henry
 Holt & Co., New York, N.Y.